

Desert Rifles

Issue 7

June 20, 2003

'Killer' Walks Streets of Hit, Iraq



KILLER--Lt. Col. Uday and Lt. Col. Sabah, acting police chiefs Sign out weapons.

**Story and Photos by
Cpl. Joe Niesen**

350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HIT, Iraq - Midnight, the streets are quiet throughout the city in compliance with the Coalition mandated curfew. Yet, in front of the police station, a crowd of men - some barely in their teens - are hoping to be assigned to duty for the evening. Overseeing this event are soldiers from the 3d ACR's 'Killer' Platoon. The American forces quietly and efficiently set up a perimeter while their commander and an interpreter oversee the distribution of weapons to those selected for duty.

"We hope to get the local police trained well enough so that we can begin pulling

out of the area and turn over security to them," said Capt. David Rozelle.

Their work in the city of Hit is something that has been a steady work in progress since the troop first began operations in the area.

"When we first entered the city, outside forces had set up booths in the market and were selling weapons, we had to stop that," said Rozelle. "Now we have hired an all new police force and a new mayor, who is working hand in hand with the police, which is making progress quicker."

Once the weapons had been handed out to the police force, routes and checkpoints were assigned to the locals. These volunteers were then worked into the patrol being conducted by the U.S. forces. This was done partially for security reasons, and partially so that the police could work with the soldiers and learn from them how to effectively conduct the patrols.

For many of the soldiers, this type of mission is something they are unaccustomed to. Many are tankers who say they feel more at ease when they are sitting behind 63 tons of steel.

"We'll be moving on foot through hostile areas, at night - for a tanker, that's scary," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Hendrex, platoon leader with the 3d ACR's 'Killer' troop.

However 'scared' the soldiers were without their tanks, they were able to either hide their apprehension or use it to keep them alert. As they moved through the dark, sparsely lit streets of Hit, the soldiers moved in a very practiced manner. Each was aware of their role in the mission and remained focused upon the task at hand.

"I'm really proud of what these guys have

accomplished," commented Sgt. 1st Class McNichols, platoon sergeant with 'Killer' Troop.

It was McNichols' mortar platoon that was responsible for training the rest of the troop for the urban missions.

Most of the night went quietly, with only reports of a 'bad man' from out of town roaming the streets reported by the local police. The troop moved through the streets passing out flyers explaining the curfew to those who chose to remain outside. The local deputy police chief made sure to explain the reasons behind the patrols to any violators and assure them that they were working with the soldiers to train and eventually conduct the patrols themselves.

Once the groups returned to the police station, the chief of police and Rozelle began organizing things for the weapons turn in.

While the police were turning in their weapons, three RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) were heard not far from the police station. Rozelle and his men quickly turned over the weapons turn-in operation to the 3d ACR's 'Grim' troop and proceeded to investigate the disturbance.

Again, the troops moved out in an organ-



KILLER--Captian David Rozelle, 'Killer' Troop commander informs citizens that they are violating curfew.

In This Issue:

- 'Killer' brings progress and hope to Hit
- Fixing schools and hospitals near Al Asad
- RCO's Comments
- Worldwide news and The Question of the week

ized and controlled manner, scouring the streets and apprehending two individuals.

After the incident, the soldiers of the troop explained that it was their training and discipline that allowed them to work as well as they did.

"What we are doing is the same stuff we learned, only more intense and draining, both physically and mentally," said Sgt. Evenson, a mortar soldier with 'Killer' troop.

"Hopefully the work we do here will have a lasting effect in the long run. Because we are risking our lives every night," said Sgt. Mando Perez of 'Killer' troop. He added that he felt, despite some setbacks, they had made, "somewhat of a difference."

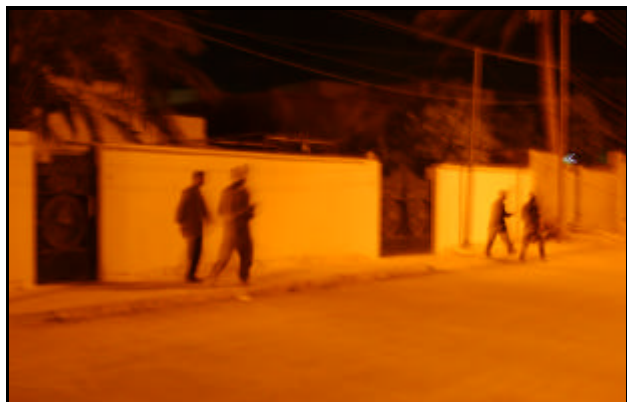
By working with the local police and physically walking the streets with them, it is the hope of the American forces that the

civilian population will understand that once they are able to fend for themselves, the Coalition Forces will begin moving out of the area.

"[The troops] have done a good job quickly reacting to hostility and the missions. Any time you take an armored cavalry regiment and put them on dismounted patrols, there is a transition. We just have to remind the troops that infantry is our secondary MOS and we adapt," said Rozelle.



KILLER--Captian David Rozelle, 'Killer' Troop Commander walks the streets with Deputy Police Chief Lt. Col. Safi Feadh Al Dulami to enforce the Collation mandated Curfew. (left) Soldiers move down the dimly lit streets of Hit, Iraq.



The Mortar Troops of "Seal Team 8"

Cpl. Joe Niesen

350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HIT, Iraq-Entering and clearing rooms, apprehending known criminals, conducting foot patrols of towns, all missions typically alien to a mortar platoon. Yet, for the mortar troops of the 3d ACR's 'Killer' Troop, these missions have become routine.

When they began training for 'Operation Iraqi Freedom,' Sgt. 1st Class John McNichols, mortar platoon sergeant, foresaw the potential urban missions that his troops might have to conduct and so adjusted their training to cover these areas which many of his troops had never encountered before.

"We went from nothing to greatness," comments McNichols. He proudly refers to his soldiers as his 'kids' and chides them about how they once complained about the intense training they were doing that according to recruiters and other senior mortar soldiers, they would never do.

Although they have had to adapt to their new mission, the troops of the mortar platoon have proven that they are more than capable of carrying out the mission. They have conducted over twenty missions

in the crowded streets of Hit without any casualties. They have captured important Ba'ath party members and former military leaders in the town and begun training local law enforcement.

"Training is the key," says McNichols. Sgt. Michael Evenson quickly adds that, "the discipline level helps out a lot as well."

To facilitate their training, these soldiers have renovated a building at their base camp to simulate a residential environment. They train before and after each mission often long after the rest of the troop hits the sack.

Watching them on patrol one can see how the soldiers, from the lowest private to the platoon leader, approaches each mission professionally and stays focused upon the task at hand.

The soldiers have nicknamed themselves "Seal Team 8" because of the missions they find themselves performing on a nightly basis.

"I can't say that they have performed flawlessly, but I can say they're pretty damn close. I'm real proud of the work they have accomplished here," said McNichols.



MORTAR--The soldiers of 'Killer' Troop's self-titled "Seal Team 8" stand in front of one of their unused Mortar tracks.

Providing Hope to Those Who Need It

Cpl. Joe Niesen

350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HIT, Iraq--When Capt. Ed Palacios of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Abilene, Texas first arrived in the Iraqi town of Hit, he knew his mission was to make an assessment of the region and its people. What he actually did, was improve relationships between the people and the soldiers by going out of his way to aid a little girl named Teeba Ayaad and her father Ayaad Nafee Abid.

"When I first entered the region, I didn't know what to expect," said Palacios. "During the war, Hit had remained untouched for the most part."

He and his section arrived in town before the rest of the 3d ACR, to which he has been attached, in order to survey the area first hand. His first stop was the local hospital where he hoped to find someone who spoke English, and did. There he began to make the initial contacts he would need as he prepared both U.S. soldiers and local civilians for the coming military operations in the area.

While on this initial trip to Hit, Ayaad Nafee Abid approached Palacios with Teeba's case in the hopes that coalition forces might be able to help.

Teeba suffers from a form of lymphoma which has caused her pain and agony her entire four years of life. Her father and family have also suffered under the stress caused by their daughter's illness.

"Baghdad has no medicine for this case," exclaimed Ayaad. "I tried all of the resources in the country and they failed to help my daughter. So, I came to the



Help--Cpt. Ed Palacios stands with Teeba Ayaad, her Father Ayaad Nafee Abid and their family doctor shortly before heading to Baghdad.

Collation Forces for help."

When Palacios heard of the case and met Teeba, he decided to make every possible effort to try and get her the help she needed.

"When I saw her medical documents, I was appalled. She was just another number to her doctors," said Palacios.

Palacios took the information that Teeba's father gave him and immediately began to write every one he thought might be able to help with the case. Soon, he was contacted by a doctor working in Jordan who told him that Teeba's case had made its

way to the Queen's office and that he should prepare Teeba's family for travel to another country.

Palacios called Ayaad and told him to be prepared to leave the country at anytime. At which point the family began to make their preparation's.

Shortly after informing Ayaad, Palacios received another letter stating that Teeba's case had been denied by the queen of Jordan.

"The father was crushed when he was told that Jordan refused the case," said Palacios. "I just couldn't tell him [Ayaad] no."

Two days later, after returning from a mission in Hit, Palacios was informed that he had a message concerning Teeba. This letter was from the same doctor who had tried to get Teeba into Jordan, and explained that he had been contacted by Medecins Du Monde, a world wide organization of doctors and specialists who were interested in reviewing Teeba's situation.

Within another two days, Palacios was able to call Ayaad and get both Teeba and her family to Baghdad where they would await transportation to a medical facility outside the country.

It was ultimately Greece that Teeba and her family traveled to after being denied entry into Jordan due to an influx of medical cases and a lack of resources.

"We will never forget the efforts made by Capt. Palacios," said Ayaad.

Regimental Command Sergeant Major John R. Caldwell Speaks on Stop Loss

Stop loss has been lifted for all, and I am asking for the regiment's leaders to release all soldiers affected by the stop loss policy.

The termination of the stop loss affecting troopers in the regiment became effective May 27. This termination affects soldiers who have approved retirements, those in the Expiration Term of Service category and those who have reached their retention control point.

We need to get these soldiers back to home station at our earliest convenience. It is the Army's policy to have soldiers back to home station no later than 90 days before their approved retirement or adjusted ETS date. This, of course, is dependent on availability of aircraft. Terminal leave must be within this 90-day period.

We owe it to all of our retiring and ETSing soldiers, who have served in our ranks superbly for many years, the time to transition appropriately into civilian life and start another chapter in their lives.

Capt. James O'Boyle of Support Squadron carries medical equipment into a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq. The equipment was recovered from Al Asad Air Base and donated to the hospital. Photo by Spc. Justin Carmack



The 70th Colonel of the Regiment sends Greetings from Ar Ramadi, Iraq:



Greetings and thanks to the troopers and families of this great Regiment. We are quickly approaching three months since we departed the comfort of Fort Carson, our families, and our friends, and in that time period great things have been accomplished. To the troopers I say fantastic job and keep up the great work. To the families I extend my most heart-filled appreciation for your dedication and patience over a turbulent and often traumatic period. With a heavy heart we say farewell to some great warriors of this nation who are no longer with us. We will sincerely miss them.

The sacrifices that are being made are not without purpose. In the short time span the Regiment has been in Iraq we have made great progress. Local governments are being emplaced, schools are being reopened, and electricity and water are once again flowing through many of the communities. It is essential to ensure that we continue, as I know you will, the accomplishment of our objectives resulting in a safe and secure Iraq. It is easy to take for granted the freedoms and conveniences we have as citizens of such a great and magnificent nation as the United States, but, as we see here, not everyone is so blessed. For the first time in several generations Iraqis are experiencing some of these same freedoms and overcoming the fear they once had of the government that ruled them. We must understand that the proud people of Iraq are going through a significant transition in their lives. It is one that we cannot fathom remotely how much it impacts on their daily lives, and hopefully one we or our children never will have. That is why we are here, for their sake, and the sake of our own

children. The Regiment provides stability to a large portion of Iraq, larger than any divisional-size element of the coalition forces. It is hard to fully appreciate the difficulty and significance of our mission here, but we are achieving results faster and greater than I ever imagined, or dreamed.

We must continue to remain vigilant in our endeavors because as you are all aware, there remain isolated groups of resistance that must be eliminated. We will not tolerate the loss of anymore of our great troopers. Every one of our leaders and troopers must understand this. I charge everyone to be ever aware of safety. This cannot be overlooked. Even though we are currently serving in a combat zone, we are not excused from adhering to the basic tasks that have been engrained in us from our training at home station. Be ever vigilant!

There is nothing more important to me than assuring that the Regiment accomplishes its mission, and that the more than 8,000 troopers who are serving with pride and dignity return home to their loved ones. The course before us is clear, but we must anticipate weathering some storms. It will not be easy, but I assure you we will be victorious. A number of Great Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of freedom, let us not forget them. The Regiment of Mounted Riflemen was hand chosen by military and civilian leaders due to our versatility and reputation of professionalism.

I know that you and your families will continue in the proud tradition of the Regiment. I will say it once more, but I cannot say it enough, THANK YOU.

BRAVE RIFLES.

RIFLES 6, OUT.

Rifles Base Talent Show

By Sgt. First Class Gary L. Qualls, Jr.
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Struttin' Their Stuff - They didn't hide their talent. Rifles Base soldiers performed June 16 for all the world to see - at least this compound on this far corner of the world.

Regimental Command Sergeant Major John R. Caldwell got into the act, performing a rap song - with shades and all!

Pfc. Aquita Johnson, 16th Signal Battalion, won the competition with her voice, belting out a gospel number in her performance. Spc. Jack Walker, 2nd Battalion, 5th Artillery Regiment, along with Johnson, finished second with an original song they performed together in a duet. 1st Lt. Charlotte Millard, 16th Sig. Bn., took third place honors with her rendition of a lullaby.

The first place winner will receive a one-day shopping excursion to Camp Doha. The second place contestants will get a week off of guard duty and the third place finisher will receive a case of soda.

"There was lots of talent and great participation," Caldwell said. "This was another way to boost the morale of the soldiers."

Top Right: RCSM John R. Caldwell lays down a rap song for the troopers at the Rifles Base talent show.

Bottom Right: Staff Sgt. Kyle West plays a funny song. Pfc. Derrick Beal holds the mike.



Photos by Spec. Samuel Castro
16th Signal Battalion

The New Doctors in Town

Story and Photos by
Specialist Emily Donaghy

AL BAGHDADI, Iraq--Women in Iraq have at least one reason to appreciate the Army, female doctors. Women in Iraq must cover their bodies in public as well as in front of men, according to traditional law of custom. For women, this means any personal or gynecological health issues are often left untreated. The army recognized that this was one problem they could provide immediate assistance to. A women's clinic in Al Baghdadi, a town just outside Al Asad air base, now opens for one day a month thanks to a few helping hands from the 3d ACR.

The clinic's opening day was a busy one from beginning to end. Doctors, linguists and journalists alike carried in and set up field hospital beds, privacy curtains and medical supply tables in the examination rooms. The clinic filled quickly with anxious women, children and even families hoping for a turn to be seen. Last month's clinic afforded about 30 women treatment, but had to turn another 20 to 30 away due to time restraints.

The process of screening, translation and treatment, in that order, went well. Translators took names in order of arrival and then called the patients into one of the two examination rooms. The translator then asked the woman to have a seat and explain her ailment. The doctor would examine the woman accordingly and then give the patient a prognosis.

Hawla Nezhani, an Iraqi school teacher and clinic patient, said "we were very excited when we heard you (female Army doctors) were coming because you have more experience with women's problems."

Iraqi doctor Nabeel Haditha, who has worked alongside the medical team since the beginning of the women's clinic operation, "has been instrumental in everything," said Capt. Lisa M. Flynn of the 945th forward surgical team attached to support squadron. Dr. Haditha worked at the hospital in Al Asad before American troops took over the base. Flynn plans to leave Nabeel with her personal laptop she purchased before deployment. "So I figured that'd be one less thing I'll have to take home with me, and they need the equipment here," said Flynn.

Capt. Anne B. Rossignol, medical troop support squadron 3d ACR, also plans to leave Nabeel with some of her personal medical books. Dr. Haditha and Rossignol both specialize in the same area of medical study so the books are particularly relevant.

The long-term goal for the clinic is to employ an Iraqi female doctor who can keep the clinic up and running for good, until then, the United States plans to faithfully return every month.



CLINIC--Iraqi patients who arrived early in the day patiently wait to be seen.



CLINIC--Capt. Jennifer L. Schwarz, medical troop support squadron 3d ACR, Dr. Nabeel Haditha and a concerned father discuss what they see in the x-ray of a small child's broken hip.

Question of the Week:

What does the term 'Logistics' mean?

Submit answers to: RCSM Caldwell in writing with name, rank and section.



The Back Page...

Colorado rock climber always put safety first--

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Ryan Sayers, a veteran mountaineer climber was killed when lightning struck him twice and sent him plummeting 300 feet into a ravine. He had been on a climbing trip with his girlfriend, Katrin Birmann, 24, of Munich, Germany, when the accident occurred.

Birmann rappelled down after Sayers and found him dead. She then hiked out of the area before alerting authorities with a cell phone borrowed from two other hikers. "Ryan was always touted as too safe a climber on all these expeditions. ... It's very unusual," Tom Sayers, Ryan's father, said in a telephone interview.

Man who criticized Catholic church found face down in river--

BOSTON - Patrick McSorley, a man who had become a strong advocate against sexual molestation cases within the Catholic Church was found by a friend in the Neponset River near John Paul II park Thursday.

McSorley had been one of the first individuals to accuse a priest of molestation and won his case against the Rev. John J. Geoghan in 2000. McSorley lived in Boston and was an important figure in the ongoing cases concerning sexual abuse by members of the Boston Archdiocese.

Male 'Y' chromosome not going the way of the Dodo--

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Researchers at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass., and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have determined that the previously held notion that the 'Y' chromosome was losing all of its gene's and was on its way to vanishing in the next 5 million years may have been erroneous. New research suggests that the 'Y' chromosome, while having lost hundreds of genes, has continued to evolve.

The findings come from an indepth study of the chromosome as it exists in both humans and chimpanzees. The next step in the ongoing research will be to map out the chromosome in mice and then examine the way in which the chromosome reproduces.

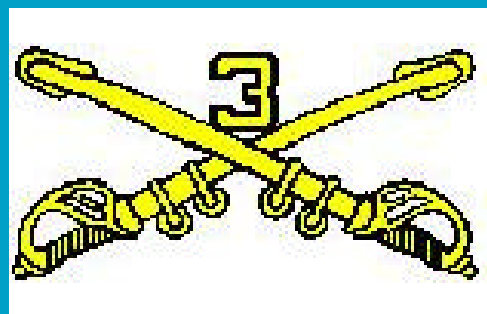
SPORTS

Current (June 20, 2003)

Major League Baseball Standings

2003 American League Standings										
EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	L10
NY Yankees	42	29	.592	-	20-17	22-12	394	313	Won 2	7-3
Boston	41	30	.577	1	22-11	19-19	432	385	Won 1	6-4
Toronto	41	31	.569	1.5	19-15	22-16	444	382	Won 3	8-2
Baltimore	32	37	.464	9	17-19	15-18	352	352	Lost 2	4-6
Tampa Bay	24	46	.343	17.5	13-21	11-25	303	393	Lost 2	2-8
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	L10
Minnesota	39	32	.549	-	18-17	21-15	360	333	Won 1	4-6
Kansas City	36	33	.522	2	20-15	16-18	354	367	Lost 1	6-4
Chicago Sox	33	39	.458	6.5	21-17	12-22	284	323	Lost 1	5-5
Cleveland	29	41	.414	9.5	16-18	13-23	292	354	Won 3	5-5
Detroit	17	52	.246	21	6-29	11-23	217	348	Lost 4	1-9
WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	L10
Seattle	48	23	.676	-	23-15	25-8	370	256	Lost 1	6-4
Oakland	41	29	.586	6.5	26-10	15-19	331	274	Won 6	7-3
Anaheim	35	35	.500	12.5	18-15	17-20	352	316	Won 1	4-6
Texas	27	43	.386	20.5	16-18	11-25	359	450	Lost 4	2-8

2003 National League Standings										
EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	L10
Atlanta	46	24	.657	-	24-9	22-15	387	311	Lost 1	5-5
Montreal	40	32	.556	7	23-11	17-21	315	310	Won 1	4-6
Philadelphia	37	33	.529	9	21-16	16-17	323	280	Won 1	6-4
Florida	35	39	.473	13	20-18	15-21	335	333	Won 1	6-4
NY Mets	33	38	.465	13.5	16-16	17-22	305	346	Lost 1	6-4
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	L10
Chicago Cubs	39	32	.549	-	18-15	21-17	319	288	Lost 1	5-5
St. Louis	38	33	.535	1	22-12	16-21	406	344	Won 3	5-5
Houston	38	34	.528	1.5	23-14	15-20	351	310	Lost 2	3-7
Cincinnati	36	35	.507	3	21-19	15-16	341	415	Won 1	6-4
Pittsburgh	29	40	.420	9	11-22	18-18	306	349	Lost 1	4-6
Milwaukee	28	43	.394	11	13-26	15-17	314	396	Lost 3	3-7
WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	L10
San Francisco	43	28	.606	-	21-13	22-15	334	298	Won 1	5-5
Los Angeles	42	29	.592	1	22-15	20-14	254	218	Lost 1	8-2
Colorado	37	37	.500	7.5	27-12	10-25	404	392	Won 2	5-5
Arizona	35	36	.493	8	18-18	17-18	318	303	Won 2	7-3



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